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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Kenneth Ray Marley )  
Filed: 01/08/2004 ) Group Art Unit: 3676  
Serial No.: 10/753,712 ) Examiner: Suzanne D. Barrett  
For: **Ball Hitch Locking Device**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Response to Office Action**

Sir:

This Response is filed addressing the issues raised in the Office Action dated 12/27/2005, regarding the above-noted application for patent. The Applicant submits that, in light of the remarks below, the application is in proper condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests the examiner withdraw the noted rejections and allow the patent to proceed to issue.

**REMARKS**

**Claims**

Applicant adopts the entire argument and authority contained in the response to office action dated 10/17/2005, and incorporates that entire response by reference within the present response.

The rejections to Claims 1-3, as specified in the Office Action are noted. Examiner has based the rejection of the claims based upon 35 USC 103(a) applying the following prior art patents:

Claim 1 is now rejected as unpatentable over Vuillemot '055 in view of Hillabush '317, Niswanger '064, Hurst '496 and either Harris '884 or Mamo '555;

Claim 2 is rejected as being unpatentable over Vuillemot in view of Hillabush, Niswanger,